
Submission No. 2

(Villawood Facility)

SL 7/09/09

To the Committee,

What is the point? Almost no-one is going to be locked up anymore yet this government wants to squander another \$183 million on upgrading a facility we have never needed.

As there is no offence in being in or entering Australia without a visa in force and we lock up people for nothing more than minor breaches of regulations it is difficult to see how this sort of extreme waste can be justified.

It can only be concluded by any fair minded and sensible person that it is being done to convince the public that somehow a student who works too long or fails a course is a threat to the society.

Or that over staying a visa actually constitutes an offence when Para 86 of Al Kateb makes it clear that all offences were removed from the act by the parliament in 1994.

While children all over the world continue to die of needless hunger and disease the committee will have to explain in detail why we need to waste so much money to continue to lock up people who will never be charged with a single offence.

Marilyn Shepherd